23 November 1968

Harold:

This afternoon I spoke with the Cuban Ambassador in Ottawa. His name is Antonio Bretón.

I did most of the talking, for it was apparent that Bretón knew little about issues connected with the assassination, and I was anxious to demonstrate not merely my serious intent, but also my competence to understand what is going on.

I gained his confidence to the degree that he will contact Havana and seek the information that you want. For the most part, although I expressed my personal interest in the matters under discussion, I put myself forth as your representative, acting chiefly as an intermediary between you and them. If they decide to co-operate, it may be somewhat awkward, for I am not fully informed about the individuals that you are interested in, and I do not know specificly what information you require ~~xxx~~ or why you need it.

Another awkward problem is that Breton has not read your books and has not heard of you. I loaned him my O. in N.O., which I had with me, and said I would send him the others. I would like to give him ~~xxxx~~ new copies to keep for himself or to pass to Havana, but I want to keep my own, for they have marginal notes. As soon as possible please send me the Bell editions of NW and WWII, and the Canyon O. in N.O. I'll send you the cost as soon as I receive the books. I'll loan him Photo.NW, unless you want to send a copy gratis. I can't spring for that much cash right now-- too near X-mas.

I asked Bretón for the following:

1) the Cuban "classbook"
2) biographical data, physical descriptions, and photos of the people you asked about
3) Russian information on Oswald and Marina
4) other material that they think might interest me.

Bretón seemed very interested. He wants reading material. I am sending him your books and Lane's (regardless of Lane's personal shortcomings, the bastard is convincing as hell in print). If his interest continues I will send him Meagher and others. Also articles from Ramparts, Playboy, and others.

I hope Havana comes through with what you want. Even if they are not able to get the info that you want, perhaps they will offer help anyway and you can ask about others. E.g., it would be fascinating to know what went on between Castro and JFK in the months before the assassination-- I am thinking chiefly of the report that the late Lisa Howard was acting as an intermediary between them.

All we can do now is sit tight and wait for word from Bretón whether Havana will co-operate. I hope so. If they send stuff written in Spanish I have a friend who can translate it if necessary. However, unless I hear otherwise from you, if I get material from them, I shall send it as is.

~~It~~

I'll have more to say about Dawney later when I get more time to write. He is convinced that there were two Sneyds in London and that they both were arrested on June 8. He describes his evidence as "iron clad", but so far all that I have seen is superficial-- not necessarily false, but not definite either. Even so, I am strongly inclined to believe that he is right-- that there were two arrests. Evidence in press stories that I have seen borders on proof of this; Dawney says he has definite ~~stuff~~ evidence that he will send me. He is afraid that his mail is being watched and possibly intercepted, but I have seen no indication of that on my end. Still, if he is right, they will want to do a hell of a lot worse than read his mail. And I do think that he is right.

Dick BERNABEI